

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
November 19, 2012 EPC Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Josh Sawislak (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Chinling Chen	✓	Scott Barstow	X	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Steve Walz	✓	Ryan Sloan	✓	Rebecca Jablon
✓	Ryan Wojtanowski	✓	Monica Starnes		

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran, Bill Eger

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Josh called the meeting to order and welcomed Jan MacPherson, a local citizen, and Adrienne Fancher from AlexRenew.
- Josh welcomed new EPC members, Ryan Wojtanowski and Monica Starnes

Public Comments

- None

King/Strand Flood Mitigation Update, Emily Baker, City Engineer, Transportation & Environmental Services Department

- The City conducted a flood mitigation study along the waterfront.
- On average, The Strand sees standing water approximately 300 times a year.
- Nuisance flooding is caused by tidal backup.
- The street can't be raised due to constraints on historic buildings and the need to meet ADA standards.
- Three options were proposed in the study:
 - o No Action Alternative
 - o Alternative 1 would involve no grade change and the raising of the lowest storm inlet opening from 1.45 feet to 2.66 feet.
 - o Alternative 2 would involve raising grade 3-5 inches and the raising of the lowest storm inlet from 1.45 feet to 3.22 feet.
- Alternative 1 is projected to cost \$925,000 and Alternative 2 is projected to cost \$1,150,000.
- Alternative 1 would decrease the average number of flooding incidents at The Strand to less than one per year.
- Alternative 2 would decrease the average number of flooding incidents at The Strand and King Street to less than one per year.

Updates on the City's Energy Management Program, Bill Eger, Energy Manager, General Services Department

- Bill gave an overview of the responsibilities and activities of the Office of Energy Management.
- Bill provided a list of the current, upcoming and proposed activities within utility procurement and management, city energy management program, community energy management, regulatory and policy affairs, energy assurance and reliability and electrical infrastructure management.

- Bill also gave an overview of the program's successes, such as the LEED Gold Certification of the Alexandria Police Department, semi-automated utility bill processing system and EECBG Project Implementation (which includes the City Hall green roof, purchase of 13 hybrid electric vehicles and the solar panel system at Beatley Library).
- Bill asked that the EPC continue its support of Eco-City and the Office of Energy Management, advocate for Community Energy Management initiatives and advocate for operating funds and staffing support for the Office of Energy Management.

Opower Presentation, Jim Kapsis, Opower

- Opower has more than 75 utility partners in 30 states, UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
- Opower specializes in behavioral energy efficiency, working with utility companies to lower energy costs and use.
- By the end 2012, the amount of kilowatt hours seen in savings by households within the program would be the equivalent of taking nearly 300,000 households off the grid.
- In the region, Opower is, pending approval, about to begin working with Washington Gas.
- In order for Opower to partner with utility companies in Virginia, the state policies would need to be more supportive.
- The EPC could reach out to Washington Gas to show its support of the initiation of the Opower program, and to encourage its expansion in Virginia. In addition, the EPC could reach out to legislators to try to advance changes in state policies.

Updates from Staff and Commission Members

- The Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC) has drafted a letter regarding public versus private use of Wales Alley. The P&RC would like this letter to be sent on behalf of the P&RC, EPC and the Waterfront Commission.
 - o After review of the letter, Steve moved that the EPC request revisions to the letter; however, if the P&RC discounts the request, the EPC should still sign off on the letter.
 - o The notion passed, with Ryan S. abstaining. Scott will contact P&RC.
- The Potomac River Generating Station Mirant Community Monitoring Group is reconstituting itself. Steve will be the EPC representative.

Administrative and Other Business Matters

- The minutes from October 15th were approved.

Adjourn 9:50 PM